

Urban Affairs Committee. (AM3209 is printed separately and referred to on page 847 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, this is our annual, since Senator Lynch introduced a bill a few years ago dealing with handicap parking. This year we had five bills in the Urban Affairs Committee dealing with it. And what we did, we took what we thought was the good material from the, all the five bills and put into this amendment LB...amendment AM3209. It's in your bill book under LB 1211. What it does, the bill does seven things: requires a sign indicating the presence of handicap parking space be posted upright, aboveground, and not painted on the surface, first thing it does; adds a new category of handicaps which would qualify a person to receive a handicap permit--a person with a heart condition that creates Class III or IV functional limitation as defined by the American Heart Association. This change was suggested by the federal organizations as a result of the American With Disabilities Act. Third one, would speed up the process of replacing destroyed, or lost, stolen permit by authorizing a replacement issued without a new physical exam if their doctor's certificate is on file with the issuing city or county official. Third, the fourth one sets up two grace periods for compliance. First, it would make it clear that if you are in possession of a valid permit within thirty days of the expiration of a former permit, that renew permit provides a complete defense of any infraction arising from the failure to have a valid permit during the thirty day period. Second, it would provide that if a peace officer certifies that a person is in possession of a valid permit within seven days of issuance of a handicap parking citation involving absent of a permit, the citation for parking infraction can be dismissed, in other words, if you don't have the certificate with you. The fifth one creates a, two new handicap parking offenses which license may be suspended and fines imposed, the knowing possessions of one or more handicapping parking permit, and two, knowingly providing false information on the application for permits. The sixth one would permit counties through governing bodies to create a volunteer civilian handicap parking enforcement patrol on the same terms as city currently are authorized to create them. And most importantly, it address one of the biggest source of complaints that we've heard from the handicap people